(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the justifications therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The stock of wheat and rice in the Central Pool during the last three years as on 1st November was as under:—

(in lakh tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat
1.11.2003	56.59	164.13
1.11.2004	110.04	126.31
1.11.2005	103.38	90.52

The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool on any point of time depends on various factors like stocks in hand, procurement, offtake of foodgrain by States/UTs, under various schemes, prices prevalent in the market etc.

(b) to (d) No report has been received regarding the flood situation affecting foodgrains procurement in any State except from Tamil Nadu, which has reported that because of the cyclone paddy procurement has been affected in districts like Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Tiruchy. This will affect the expected procurement of paddy in Tamil Nadu by 2 to 4 lakh MTs. Adequate foodgrains are however available in the Buffer Stock for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes of the Government.

Labelling of GM food

1090. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research has demanded that labelling should be made mandatory for all genetically modified (GM) food in the country because of health risks associated with GM foods;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action regarding labelling to be made mandatory for all GM food items and consumer has the right to make an informed choice where their consumption is concerned; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The Expert Committee on GM food and ingredients constituted under the Charimanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research made recommendations for mandatory labelling of GM food which were considered by the Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), a statutory Committee under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The CCFS recommended to make it mandatory for labelling all genetically modified foods in the country. The amendment to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955 on the basis of these recommendations of CCFS has been processed.

Below quality standard foodgrain samples

1091. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory collects and analyses samples of foodgrains meant for public distribution system;

(b) whether any sample was found below quality standard during last one year; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) on its own collects samples of foodgrains brought by the farmers in various mandies of major producing States for sale, alone and analyses them to asses the quality. Data so generated is utilized in formulation of uniform specifications of foodgrains for procurement under central pool . Samples of foodgrains received in CGAL from Quality Control Cell and other sources are also analysed to assess the quality. Analysis results of the samples are communicated to the concerned for taking further necessary action, if any, at their end.

Failure of TPDS

1092. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much-hyped Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for supplying subsidised foodgrain to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families has failed;